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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/522,314

01/25/2005

Takashi Ono

03500.017422

5994

5514

7590

04/30/2008

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

KASSA, HILINA S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/30/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/522,314	Applicant(s) ONO, TAKASHI	
	Examiner HILINA S. KASSA	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment submitted on 01/24/2008 has been acknowledged.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 01/24/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(1) argument 1:

Applicant argues none of the references teach, **"control means for communicating with other appliances on the network by use of the IP address generated for every image processing function and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions in accordance with a result of the communication via a common bus"**

With respect to Applicant's argument, the Examiner still relies upon the teachings of Ouchi, Lam and Thompson. Ouchi discloses a control means for communicating with other appliances on the network (**20, 24, figure 1; column 3, lines 8-10; note that the control unit 20 controls the operation of the overall device and in line 27-28, the network control unit controls the communication of the devices on the network**) and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions in accordance with a result of the

communication (**column 3, lines 37-47; note that the multifunctional processing device has a control unit 20 in figure 1; also, note that the operation of the printing, scanning and facsimile devices occur as communication gets established through the modem 23 of figure 1**) via a common bus (**7, figure 1; column 3 , lines 25-27; note that a transmission interface is connected to an external personal computer via a connection cable**).

Ouchi discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching *use of the IP address generated for every image processing function*.

However, Lam teaches *use of the IP address generated for every image processing function (paragraph [0036], lines 1-9; note that each peripheral devices have a unique IP address)*.

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. processing data for printing and other peripheral devices along with multiplex communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for every image processing function. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore,

it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1. Thus, the stated argument is taught by the combination of Ouchi and Lam et al.

(2) argument 2:

Applicant argues none of the references, **"IP address generating means, connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router and generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information"**.

With respect to Applicant's argument, the Examiner still relies upon the teachings of Ouchi, Lam and Thompson.

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, *generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information*.

However, Lam et al. disclose, *generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information* (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-14; note that a unique IP address gets assigned for each device on the basis of the router**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. processing data for printing and other peripheral devices along with multiplex communication. At the time of the invention, it would have

been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Ouchi and Lam et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching *IP address generating means connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router.*

However, Thomson et al. disclose *IP address generating means connected to an Ipv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router* (**page 2, paragraph [0002] of Introduction; note that IPv6 defines an auto configuration mechanism of routers. Also, the stateless mechanism allows a host to generate its own address using a combination of locally available information provided by the routers. In addition to that, page 3 paragraph [0004] states that routes are expected to successfully pass the duplicate address detection procedure described in prior to assigning to an interface).**

Ouchi, Lam et al. and Thomson et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. processing data for printing and other

peripheral devices along with multiplex communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have an IP address generating means connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said Ipv6 router. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that IPv6 addresses lease to an interface for a fixed length of time (page 3, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5) and IPv6 defines both stateful and stateless address autconfiguration mechanism (page 2, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi, Lam et al. with Thomson et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1. Thus, the stated argument has been taught by the combination of Ouchi, Lam et al. and Thomson et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouchi (US Patent Number 5,987,494, see IDS) and Lam et al. (US Publication Number 2003/0142683 A1) and further in view of Thomson et al. (Request for comments 2462

IPv6 Stateless Autoconfiguration”, The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)(online), December 1998).

(1) regarding claim 1:

As shown in figure 1, Ouchi discloses an image processing apparatus having a plurality of image processing functions (**1, 3, 4, figure 1; column 3, lines 5-11; note that multi-function information processing device is considered as the image processing apparatus with plurality of image processing functions**), comprising:

control means for communicating with other appliances on the network (**20, 23, figure 1**) and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions in accordance with a result of the communication (**column 3, lines 37-47; note that the multifunctional processing device has a control unit 20 in figure 1; also, note that the operation of the printing, scanning and facsimile devices occur as communication gets established through the modem 23 of figure 1**) via a common bus (**7, figure 1; column 3 , lines 25-27; note that a transmission interface is connected to an external personal computer via a connection cable**).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, IP address generating means, connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router and generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for every image processing function.

However, Lam et al. disclose, generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-14; note that a unique IP address gets assigned for each device on the basis of the router**); and by use of the IP address generated for every image processing function (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-9; note that each peripheral devices have a unique IP address**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for every image processing function. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Ouchi and Lam et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching IP address generating means connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router.

However, Thomson et al. disclose IP address generating means connected to an Ipv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router (**page 2, paragraph [0002] of Introduction; note that IPv6 defines an auto configuration mechanism of routers. Also, the stateless mechanism allows a host to generate**

its own address using a combination of locally available information provided by the routers. In addition to that, page 3 paragraph [0004] states that routes are expected to successfully pass the duplicate address detection procedure described in prior to assigning to an interface).

Ouchi, Lam et al. and Thomson et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have an IP address generating means connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that IPv6 addresses lease to an interface for a fixed length of time (page 3, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5) and IPv6 defines both stateful and stateless address autoconfiguration mechanism (page 2, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi, Lam et al. with Thomson et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

(2) regarding claim 2:

Ouchi further discloses, an image processing apparatus (**column 3, lines 5-11; note that multi-function information processing device is considered as the image processing apparatus with plurality of image processing functions**) according to claim 1, wherein said control means executes the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover (**column 4, lines 9-15; note that control program has a timer to switchover tasks on every 1/60 seconds**), control task programs corresponding respectively to the

plurality of image processing functions (**column 4, lines 15-29; note that the control program, which is corresponding to a plurality of functions, on the basis of the timer**), and taking as a unit the control task program corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions (**column 5, lines 27-40; note that control programs correspond to the plurality of functions of the multi-functional processing device**).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program.

However, Lam et al. disclose control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program (**paragraph [0036], lines 3-8; note that central processing unit communicates between each peripheral devices via the IP addresses that is assigned**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to easily manage and access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

(3) regarding claim 3:

Ouchi further discloses, a control method of an image processing apparatus having a plurality of image processing functions (**column 3, lines 5-11; note that multi-function information processing device is considered as the image processing apparatus with plurality of image processing functions**), comprising:

a controlling step for communicating with other appliance on the network (**20, 23, figure 1**) and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions in accordance with a result of the communication (**column 3, lines 37-47; note that the multifunctional processing device has a control unit 20 in figure 1; also, note that the operation of the printing, scanning and facsimile devices occur as communication gets established through the modem 23 of figure 1**) via a common bus (**7, figure 1; column 3 , lines 25-27; note that a transmission interface is connected to an external personal computer via a connection cable**).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router and generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for every image processing function.

However, Lam et al. disclose, generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information

(paragraph [0036], lines 1-14; note that a unique IP address gets assigned for each device on the basis of the router); and by use of the IP address generated for every image processing function (paragraph [0036], lines 1-9; note that each peripheral devices have a unique IP address).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for every image processing function. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Ouchi and Lam et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router.

However, Thomson et al. disclose IP address generating means connected to an Ipv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router **(page 2, paragraph [0002] of Introduction; note that IPv6 defines an auto configuration mechanism of routers. Also, the stateless mechanism allows a host to generate its own address using a combination of locally available information provided by the routers. In addition to that, page 3 paragraph [0004] states that routes are**

expected to successfully pass the duplicate address detection procedure described in prior to assigning to an interface).

Ouchi, Lam et al. and Thomson et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have an IP address generating means connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that IPv6 addresses lease to an interface for a fixed length of time (page 3, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5) and IPv6 defines both stateful and stateless address autconfiguration mechanism (page 2, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi, Lam et al. with Thomson et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 3.

(4) regarding claim 4:

Ouchi further discloses, a control method of an image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said controlling step involves executing the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover (**column 4, lines 9-15; note that control program has a timer to switchover tasks on every 1/60 seconds**), control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions (**column 4, lines 15-29; note that the control program, which is corresponding to a plurality of functions, on the basis of the timer**), and taking as a unit the control task program corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions (**column 5, lines 27-40; note**

that control programs correspond to the plurality of functions of the multi-functional processing device).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program.

However, Lam et al. disclose control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program (**paragraph [0036], lines 3-8; note that central processing unit communicates between each peripheral devices via the IP addresses that is assigned).**

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to easily manage and access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 4.

(5) regarding claim 5:

Ouchi further discloses, a control program embodied on a computer-readable medium of an image processing apparatus having a plurality of image processing

functions (**column 3, lines 5-11; note that multi-function information processing device is considered as the image processing apparatus with plurality of image processing functions**), comprising:

a controlling step for communicating with other appliance on the network (**20, 23, figure 1**) and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions in accordance with a result of the communication (**column 3, lines 37-47; note that the multifunctional processing device has a control unit 20 in figure 1; also, note that the operation of the printing, scanning and facsimile devices occur as communication gets established through the modem 23 of figure 1**) via a common bus (**7, figure 1; column 3, lines 25-27; note that a transmission interface is connected to an external personal computer via a connection cable**).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router and generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for every image processing function.

However, Lam et al. disclose, generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-14; note that a unique IP address gets assigned for each device on the basis of the router**); and by use of the IP address generated for

every image processing function (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-9; note that each peripheral devices have a unique IP address**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for every image processing function. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Ouchi and Lam et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router.

However, Thomson et al. disclose IP address generating means connected to an Ipv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router (**page 2, paragraph [0002] of Introduction; note that IPv6 defines an autoconfiguration mechanism of routers. Also, the stateless mechanism allows a host to generate its own address using a combination of locally available information provided by the routers. In addition to that, page 3 paragraph [0004] states that routes are expected to successfully pass the duplicate address detection procedure described in prior to assigning to an interface**).

Ouchi, Lam et al. and Thomson et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have an IP address generating means connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that IPv6 addresses lease to an interface for a fixed length of time (page 3, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5) and IPv6 defines both stateful and stateless address autoconfiguration mechanism (page 2, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi, Lam et al. with Thomson et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

(6) regarding claim 6:

Ouchi further discloses, a control program embodied on a computer-readable medium of an image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said controlling step involves executing the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover (**column 4, lines 9-15; note that control program has a timer to switchover tasks on every 1/60 seconds**), control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions (**column 4, lines 15-29; note that the control program, which is corresponding to a plurality of functions, on the basis of the timer**), and taking as a unit the control task program corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions (**column 5, lines 27-40; note that control programs correspond to the plurality of functions of the multi-functional processing device**).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program.

However, Lam et al. disclose control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program (**paragraph [0036], lines 3-8; note that central processing unit communicates between each peripheral devices via the IP addresses that is assigned**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have control means perform the communication using the IP address generated for every image processing function on the basis of the control task program. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to easily manage and access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

(7) regarding claim 7:

Ouchi further discloses, an apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a composite image processing apparatus which includes at least a printer function (**20, figure 1; column 3, lines 7-9**) and a scanner function as the image-processing functions (**4, figure 1; column 3, lines 10-11**).

(8) regarding claim 8:

Ouchi discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, wherein said IP address generating means sends the generated IP address to the router to check duplication of the IP address, and if the IP address duplicates, said IP address generating means generates an IP address different from the previously generated IP address on the basis of the prefix.

However, Lam et al. disclose wherein said IP address generating means sends the generated IP address to the router to check duplication of the IP address **(paragraph [0038], lines 4-16; note that the unique IP address of the peripherals gets stored as a simple look up table, if change or addition needs to be made, a new IP gets generated)**, and if the IP address duplicates **(paragraph [0038], lines 8-9; note that if the IP address needs to be changed or added, a new IP gets generated)**, said IP address generating means generates an IP address different from the previously generated IP address on the basis of the prefix **(paragraph [0040], lines 3-22)**.

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address if there is duplication from the previously generated address. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been for efficiently access and utilize the devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

(9) regarding claim 9:

Ouchi further discloses, a method according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a composite image processing apparatus which includes at least a printer function (**20, figure 1; column 3, lines 7-9**) and a scanner function as said image-processing functions (**4, figure 1; column 3, lines 10-11**).

(10) regarding claim 10:

Ouchi discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, wherein said IP address generating means sends the generated IP address to the router to check duplication of the IP address, and if the IP address duplicates, said IP address generating means generates an IP address different from the previously generated IP address on the basis of the prefix.

However, Lam et al. disclose wherein said IP address generating means sends the generated IP address to the router to check duplication of the IP address (**paragraph [0038], lines 4-16; note that the unique IP address of the peripherals gets stored as a simple look up table, if change or addition needs to be made, a new IP gets generated**), and if the IP address duplicates (**paragraph [0038], lines 8-9; note that if the IP address needs to be changed or added, a new IP gets generated**), said IP address generating means generates an IP address different from the previously generated IP address on the basis of the prefix (**paragraph [0040], lines 3-22**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address if there is duplication from the previously generated address. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been for efficiently access and utilize the devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Hilina Kassa whose telephone number is (571) 270-1676.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore could be reached at (571) 272- 7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about PAIR system, see <http://pari-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hilina S Kassa/

Examiner, Art Unit 2625

April 21, 2008

/Mark K Zimmerman/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625